

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. I understand that Sinclair Broadcast Group is now instructing their 62 local stations, many in battleground states, to pre-empt regular programming to air an anti-Kerry piece, just two weeks before the election. This unprecedented move would be direct electioneering by a corporate media giant -- and against federal election law.

Now, right before the election, Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry piece exemplifies the dangers of media consolidation as, if they continue with this and actually do this broadcast tonight, they will be in households all over the country with a single-minded purpose and that's to affect the outcome of the upcoming election.

When large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line for that company, and less of what we need for our democracy. The need for balanced media is more important than ever in an extremely tight presidential election year race.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them.

Thank you.